DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, CEYLON.

BULLETIN No. 36.

RUBBER-MANURING EXPERIMENTS: EXPERIMENT STATION, PERADENIYA, 1915—1917.

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RUBBER-MANURING EXPERIMENTS AT PERADENIYA.



HE results of these experiments to the end of 1914 were published in Bulletin No. 18, 1915. The experiments have been continued to date on the lines indicated, i.e., a general mixture containing nitrogen, phosphoric acid, and potash,

modified in the other plots to contain an excess of each ingredient and the gradual elimination of the non-essential. The plots are as follows:—

- 1. General Mixture: Plot 83 A and B; 42 trees; 29 trees tapped.
- 2. Excess Nitrogen: Plot 83 D and 84 A; 46 trees; 42 trees tapped.
- 3. Excess Phosphoric Acid: Plot 84 C and D; 46 trees; 34 trees tapped.
 - 4. Unmanured: Plot 85 A and B; 33 trees; 25 trees tapped.
 - Excess Potash: Plot 85 D and 86 A; 48 trees; 35 trees tapped.
 - Mineral Mixture: Plot 86 B and C; 47 trees; 40 trees tapped.

The average girth of all the trees tapped was from 29.4 inches to 29.7 inches in January, 1914, when alternate day tapping was begun with one cut to the left on one-third at 26 inches.

Manure was applied in February, 1913, but none in 1914. From 1915 the manures have been applied annually in rows between the trees. The rows are dug 2 to 3 feet wide and 6 inches deep, all leaves swept in over the manure and forked in, the trench being then filled. Later manuring shows that 6(4)18

these trenches are full of rootlets, but with few below the 6 inches depth. The manures applied in 1916 and 1917 supplied the following amounts per acre of the chief ingredients:—

General Mixture Plot: N 50 lb.; P_4O_3 30 lb.; K_2O 30 lb. Excess Nitrogen Plot: N 80 lb.; P_2O_8 9·5 lb. Excess Phosphoric Acid: N 9·5 lb.; P_2O_8 80 lb. Excess Potash: N 9·5 lb.; K_2O 80 lb. Mineral Mixture: N 50 lb.; P_4O_3 30 lb.; K_2O 30 lb.

The dates of manuring were January, 1915; March, 1916; and June, 1917.

The control rows between the plots 1 to 5 were uprooted in October, 1916, as more air and root space was necessary.

Tapping.—The first area of one-third at 26 inches was tapped from January, 1914, to end of May, 1916, and lasted twenty-nine months, the average consumption being 0.89 inch per month. The second area was begun on June 1, 1916, at 20 inches, and to the end of 1917 14.6 inches of bark had been used, or an average of 0.77 inches per month.

No water was employed, and the daily yield of pure later from each plot was recorded in cubic centimetres. This was manufactured into rubber, and the dry weight and scrap was recorded monthly in grams. The weight in grams is converted into ounces by multiplying by 0.035.

Climate.—The rainfall and number of wet days are fairly uniform year by year, but there was a severe drought in January and February, 1916, which caused rather heavier seeding. The drought was followed by more continuous wet weather in June and July, resulting in a considerable amount of diseased pods.

In 1917 there was no drought in the early part of the year, and the rainfall was fairly well distributed. Much less seed was formed, and there were only one or two instances of diseased pods.

Comparing the yields of latex in the first quarters of 1915, 1916, and 1917, respectively, the effect of the climate on crop is marked. 24.82 per cent. of the total crop was produced in 1915, when February and March were rather dry; 19.66 per cent. in 1916, when there was a severe drought in January and

February, and 30.80 per cent. was produced in 1917, when J_{anuary} and February were unusually wet.

Table showing the monthly rainfall and number of wet days from 1914 to 1917, inclusive:—

	191	4.		15.		6.		17.
	Inches.	Wet Days	Inches.	Wet Days.	Inches	Wet Days,	Inches	Wet Days.
Jan.	2.20	8	9 · 40	14	•49	2 .	. 5.83	12
Feb.	0.33	3	4.17	3	—	- .	. 6.12	13
March	4.56	10	1.85		10.64			
April	5.87	11	5.57	9	6:10	9 .	. 2.15	6
May	4.83	10	2.76	8	7:30	10 .	. 4.63	3
June	12.47	27	9.10	13	13 · 67	20 .	.10.24	14
July	5.17	17	12.84	20	12.53	26 .	. 6.40	13
August	5.71	11	5.10	13	4.69	16	. 9.95	15
Sept.	7.60	16	10.07	16	6.67	16 .	.15.04	19
Oct.	11.87	25	5 88	10	6.77	19	9.63	13
Nov.	7:41	19	12.21	27	9.16	14 .	.16.49	18
Dec.	14.70	21	8.64	14	4.04	10	6.49	13
Total	82.72	178	$87 \cdot 59$	153	84.06	155	99 · 46	156

Diseases.—A considerable amount of bark rot and pod disease was apparent in 1916, but little in 1917, only one tree in the general manure plot showing black pods.

Yields.

Table showing the yields of dry rubber per tree from the manured and unmanured plots in lb. and oz. from 1914 to 1917. inclusive:—

		914.	1	915.	1	916.	1	917.	Te	otal.
	lb.	oz.	lb.	OZ.	ib.	oz.	lb.	oz.	lb.	oz.
General Mixture.	. 2	4.4	. 3	0	3	13	4	5.4.	. 13	6.8
Excess Nitrogen.	. 2	5.7	3	7.8	3	13.9	4	6.8.	. 14	2.2
Excess Phosphori	D.									
Acid	. 2	7.2	3	9 • 2	4	3 . 9	4	9.4 .	. 14	$13 \cdot 7$
Excess Potash	. 2	3 · 2	- 2	11.8	3	8.8	3	10.7	12	9.3
mineral Mixture.	. 2	5 · 4	3	3 • 3	3	11 -4	3	9 • 0	- 12	13 - 1
Unmanured .	. 2	11.5	3	9.7	4	0.4	4	0.2 .	. 14	5.8

It will be noticed that, with the exception of the phosphoric acid plot, the total yield from the unmanured plot for the four years is the highest. During 1917, however, the unmanured plot and the mineral mixture plot show a decrease on the

previous year's yield, while all the others continue to show an increase, though only to a small extent in the case of the potash plot, which has been consistently poor from the beginning of the experiments. Comparing the yields or 1914 and 1917 in each plot, the increases are as follows:—

			ed Yield. oz.	Increase over Unmanured Plot.
General Mixture	. :	2	1	 12.3 oz. per tree
Excess Nitrogen	. :	2	1.1	 12.4 oz. per tree
Excess Phosphoric Acie	d :	2	$2 \cdot 2$	 13.5 oz. per tree
Excess Potash	. :	1	7.5	 2.8 oz. per tree
Mineral Mixture	. :	l	4.6	 -0.1 oz. per tree
Unmanured		l	4.7	

The general organic mixture, excess nitrogen, and phosphoric acid in this way show a marked increase over the unmanured plot. The increased yield per tree per annum in each plot is shown below, and the unmanured tends to show that without suitable manure rubber yields will not continue to improve after a certain stage.

Table showing the increased yield per tree in each succeeding year 1915 to 1917, inclusive:—

	1915. oz.	1916. oz.	1917. oz.
General Mixtur	 11.6	 13.0	 8.4
Excess Nitrogen	 18 · 1	 6.1	 8.9
Excess Phosphoric Acid	 18.0	 10.7	 5.5
Excess Potash	 8.6	 12.8	 2 · 1
Mineral Mixture	 13.9	 8.1	 2 - 4
Unmanured	 12.2	 6.7	 0.2

Excess of nitrogen and phosphoric acid had an immediate effect in 1915 over the normal increase, due to age, girth, and the cutting out of the cocoa in September to November, 1912. In 1916 the increase from the second application of manure in 1915 was less marked, except in the plots with general mixture and excess of potash. The excess nitrogen plot showed a lower increase than the control plot. The lower increase in this year was due partly to the drought in January and February. In 1917 the general mixture, excess nitrogen, and phosphoric acid plots continued to show a further increase, and to a slight extent in the potash plot, while the mineral

mixture and unmanured plots show a decrease over 1916 yields. The annual cost of the manures applied are approximately as follows:—

```
        General Mixture
        Rs. 62 per acre

        Excess Nitrogen
        Rs. 67 83 per acre

        Excess Phosphoric Acid
        Rs. 25 56 per acre

        Excess Potash
        Rs. 26 18 per acre

        Mineral Mixture
        Rs. 50 60 per acre
```

As the trees are planted about 18 feet by 18 feet, or 134 trees per acre, and every third row has been cut out, the trees now number 90 per acre, and on this basis the value of the increase and the cost per acre can be compared, not allowing for the extra cost of manufacture.

Table showing the increase of dry rubber per acre in each year at 90 trees per acre:—

	1915.	1916.	1917.	Total.	Cost of Manuring, 8 Years.
	lb.	lb.	ib.	lb.	Rs. c.
General Mixture	65 . 25	73 · 12	47.12	185 - 49	186 0
Excess Nitrogen	101.81	34.31	50.06.	186 - 18	203 49
Excess Phosphoric Acid .	101 · 25	60.19	30.93.	.192 - 37	7 76 50
Excess Potash	48.38	72 00	11.81.	. 132 - 19	78 54
Mineral Mixture	78 · 19	45 . 56	13.50.	.110 .25	151 80
Unmanured	68 62	37.69	1.12.	.105 - 19) —

Taking 105 191b. of the unmanured plot as the total normal increase for the three years, and deducting it from the increases in the manured plots, the results are as follows:—

Nett Increase.

General Mixture	 80 · 30 lb, at a cost of Rs. 186
Excess Nitrogen	 80.99 lb. at a cost of Rs. 203.49
	 87.18 lb. at a cost of Rs. 76.50
Excess Potash	 27.00 lb. at a cost of Rs. 78.54
Mineral Mixture	 5.06 lb, at a cost of Rs, 151.80

From these figures it would appear that the manure containing an excess of phosphoric acid was most profitable. This manure was of the following composition:—

	Ib	. per Ac	re.
Groundnut cake Steamed bone dust Basic slag	::	50 200 200 450	Containing— Nitrogen 9·5 lb. Phosphoric Acid 80·0 lb.

The development of foliage and general vigour is, however, less marked in this plot than in any of the other plots.

Table showing the quarterly yields of latex, rubber, and scrap:—

In 1915.

Alternate day tapping one-third circumference one cut to left at 26 inches.

		Plot	83, Rows A			· .						
			Genera	d Mixt	ure.							
	Latex. cc.		Rubber.		Scrap.	F	er Cent. Scrap.					
January-March	24,995		8,609		942		34 · 4					
April-June	24,530		8,398		829		34 . 2					
July-September	24,590		8,337	• • •	880		33.9					
October-December.					992	• •						
October-December.	33,790	••	10,856	••	992	••	32 · 1					
	107,905		36,200		3,643		33.8					
	Plo	t 83, 1	Row D, and	1 84, R	ow A; 42	Trees	3.					
			Exces	s Nitro	gen.							
	Latex.		Rubber.		Scrap.	3	er Cent. Scrap.					
January-March	49,190		16,398		965		33 · 3					
		••		• •		• •						
	44,260	• •	15,197	• •	874	• •	34.3					
July-September	39,890	• •	13,977	• •	800	• •	35.03					
October-December .	53,530	• •	17,755	••	1,004	••	33 · 1					
	186,870		63,327		3,643		33.9					
	Plot 84, Rows C and D; 34 Trees.											
			Excess Pl	hospho	ric Acid.							
	Latex.		Rubber.		Scrap.	1	Per Cent. Scrap.					
January-March	34,025		11,735		967		34 · 4					
April-June	38,880		12,757		992	•••	32.8					
	31,650		10,934		735	• •	34.5					
		• •		• •		• •						
October-December .	49,160	• •	16,533	• •	980	••	33.6					
	153,715		51,959		3,674		33.8					
		Plo	85, Rows			ees.						
				ontrol								
	Latex. cc.		Rubber	•	Scrap.		Per Cent. Scrap.					
January-March	26,390		8,554		1,025		32.4					
April-June	24,300		8,166		904		33.6					
July-September	28,050		9,215		705		32.8					
October-December .	37,740		11.785		881		31.2					
occoper-Determier.	01,140	• •	11,700	• •	001	••						
	116,480		37,720		3,515		32.5					

Plot 85, Row D, and 86, Row A; 35 Trees.

	Pio	t 80, K			ow A; 35	Tre	es.
	Latex.		Excess Rubber.	oi Pota	sn. Scrap.		Per Cent. Scrap.
January-March	33,895		11,145		1,022		32.8
April-June	32,040		10,094		865		31.5
July-September	23,750		7,290		690		30.6
October-December .	38,620	••	11,909	••	841	٠.	30.8
	128,305		40,438		3,418		31.4
		Plot		B and (C; 40 Tre	es.	
	Latex.		Rubber.	ar Marane	Scrap.		Per Cent.
	cc.		Itabbot.		ocrap.		Scrap.
January-March	47,015		15,261		1,091	٠.	32.4
April-June	40,960		13,952		1.004		34.0
July-September	34,710		10,927		799		31.4
October-December .	45,790		14,508	••	1,144		31 6
	168,475		54,648	•	4,038		32.3

		In 19					
		Plot 8		A and E A Mixtu	; 29 Tree	s.	
	Latex.		Rubber.		Scrap.		Per Cent. Scrap.
January-March	28,940		10,894		1,127		37.6
April-June	28,970		9,408		893		32 · 4
July-September	38,080		11,785		1,026		30.9
October-December .	49,600		15,858		1,229		31 .9
	145,590		47,945		4,275		32 · 9
	Plo	t 83. R	ow D. an	d 84. R	ow A; 42	Tre	es.
		,	Excess				
	Latex. cc.		Rubber.		Scrap.		Per Cent. Scrap.
January-March	45,300		16,773		1,181		37.02
April-June	45,300		14,214		1,079		31.3
July-September	57,040		16,478		1,029	٠.	28 · 8
October-December .	68,700	• •	22,118	• •	1,396		32 · 1
	216,340		69,583		4,685		32 · 1
		Plot	84, Rows	C and	D ; 34 Tr	ecs.	
		Ŀ	excess of l	Phosph			
_	Latex. cc.	*	Rubber.		Scrap.		Per Cent. Scrap.
January-March	35,950		13,344		1,261	٠.	37.1
April-June	39,150		12,942		1,077		33.05
July-Soptember	51,230		14,601		1,208		28.5
October-Docember .	57,130		20,165		1,386		35 - 2
	183,460		61,052		4,932		33 · 2

(8	}	
	Plot	85, Rows A and B; 25 Trees.	

	Plot 85, Rows A and B; 25 Trees.						
	7.4 -			ontrol.			
	Latex. cc.		Rubber.		Scrap.	ŀ	er Cent. Scrap.
January-March	26,210		9,335		1,131		35.6
April-June	29,200		9,271		932		31.7
July-September	36,320		9.324		1,029		25.6
October-December .	38,590		12,813		1,515		33 .2
	130,320		40,743		4,607		31 ·2
	P	ot 85,	Row D, at	nd 86,	Row A; 3	5 Tree	8.
			Excess	of Pot	ssh.		
,	Latex. cc.		Rubber,		Scrap.	1	Per Cent. Scrap.
January-March	30,940		10,651		1,210		34 · 4
April-June	36,880		11,075		1,060		30.02
July-September	47,840		13,172		1,000		27.5
October-December .	52,920		17,046		1,392		32.2
	168,580		51,944		4,662		30.8
		Plo	88, Rows	B and	C: 40 Tre	es.	
				al Mix			
	Latex.		Rubber.		Scrap.	1	Per Cent.
	cc.						Scrap.
January-March	39,110		14,121	• •	1,392	• •	36.1
April-June	43,510	• •	13,265	• •	1,362	• •	30.4
July-September	54,460	• •	15,400	• •	1,514	• •	28 . 2
October-December .	59,210	• •	19,081	• •	1,734	• •	$32 \cdot 2$
	196,290		61,867		6,002		31.5
		In 1	917.				
		Plot	83, Rows 2	and I	B; 29 Tre	es.	
			Genera				
	Latex.		Rubber.		Scrap.	I	er Cent.
7	ec.		14.005		1 400		Scrap.
January-March	46,010	••	14,987	• •	1,409	• •	32.5
April-June	30,900	• •	11,600	• •	1,105	٠.	37.6
July-September	27,880	• •	10,366	• •	911	• •	37·2 35·08
October-December .	45,550	• •	15,982	• •	1,128	••	33.00
	150,340		52,935		4,553		35.6
						_	
	Piot	83, H	low D, and			Trees	•
	Latex.		Rubber.	s Nitro	gen. Scrap.	Y	er Cent.
	CC,		IVANUEL.		word'.		Scrap.
January-March	68,400		23,437		1,685		34.2
April-June	47,210		16,666		1,137		35.3
July-September	43,620		17,314		1,215	• •	39.6
October-December .	63,880		22,251		1,232		34 8
	000 110		BO 002				97.0
	223,110		79,668		5,269		35.9

	Plot 84, Rows C and D; 34 Trees. Excess Phosphoric Acid.						
	Latex.		Rubber.	поврис	Scrap.		er Cent. Scrap.
January-March April-June	47,990 37,560 36,980 55,130		17,468 13,593 14,957 20,100		1,787 1,200 1,071 1,199		36·3 36·1 40·4 36·4
	177,660		66,118		5,257		37.3
	Latex.	Plot	85, Rows A	ontrol.			er Cent.
January-March April-June July-Soptember October-December .	38,870 24,080 24,790 33,240 ————————————————————————————————————		12,537 8,682 7,860 11,884 40,963		1,646 1,246 916 1,137 4,945		Scrap. 32 · 2 36 · 05 31 · 7 35 · 7 33 · 9
	Plot	85, B	tow D, and	-		Trees	
	Latex.		Rubber.		Scrap.	1	Per Cent. Scrap.
January-March April-Juno July-September October-December .	49,680 33,390 30,410 42,490		16,145 12,855 10,156 14,789		1,872 1,296 928 1,187		32·4 38·4 33·4 34·8

Plot 86, Rows B and C; 40 Trees.

5,283

53,945 '

		Mineral Mixture.					
	Latex.		Rubber.		Scrap.		Per Cent. Scrap.
January-March	54.220		17,869		1,716		32.9
April-June	33,980		12,804		1,355	٠.	37.6
July-September	34.450		11.754		957	٠.	34 · 1
October-December .	47,680		17,461	٠.	1,291	• •	36.6
	170,330		59,888		5,319		35.3

155,970

Increases in Girth. Table showing the increase of girth from January, 1914, to

January, 1918. All the trees were measured at 3 feet from the

ground :-Plots Manured. 1914, 1915, 1916, 1917, 1918, Total Average Inches, Inches, Inches, Inches, Increase, Increase, General Mixture (29 Trees). ..29 47 ..33 68 ..37 06 ..41 04 ..43 72 .. Average Increase $\dots - \dots 4 \cdot 21 \dots 3 \cdot 38 \dots 3 \cdot 98 \dots 2 \cdot 68 \dots 14 \cdot 25 \dots 3 \cdot 56$ Excess Nitrogen (42 Trees). Average ..29.88..34.17..37.46..41.02..43.90.. Increase .. - .. 4.29.. 3.29.. 3.56.. 2.88..14.02..3.50 Excess Phosphoric Acid (34 Trees). Average ..29 .43 ..33 .49 ..36 .83 ..40 .48 ..43 .26 ..

Increase .. - .. 4.06.. 3.34.. 3.65.. 2.78..13.83..3.45 Excess Potash (35

Trees). Average ..29 · 29 ..33 · 77 ..37 · 20 ..40 · 15 ..41 · 62 .. Increase .. - .. 4.48.. 3.43.. 2.95.. 1.47..12.33..3.08

Mineral Mixture (40 Trees). Average ..29 • 71 ..34 • 46 ..37 • 65 ..42 • 31 ..44 • 15 ..

.. - .. 4.75.. 3.19.. 4.66.. 1.84..14.44..3.61 Increase Unmanured (25 Trees). Average

The control plot continues to show the greatest increase in girth in the fourth year, while the potash and mineral mixture

Increase

show the least. The latter, however, comes next to the control plot for the four years period.

Percentage of Caoutchouc in Latex.

Table showing the effect of different manurial ingredients on the percentage of Caoutchouc in the latex :--

			Por Cont.	f Caoutcho	10
	General Manure		Passes	ric Excess	
1914	. 34.7	33.4			33.01 32.8
1915	33.8	33.0	33.8	31.4	32.3 32.5
1916	32.9	32.1	33.9	30.8	31.5 31.2
1917	35.6	35.9	37.3	34.7	35.3 33.9
Average for 4 year			34.2	32.5	33.02 32.6

Evaporation of Rubber Latex.

In order to test whether the calculation of rubber to latex would be affected to any extent by loss from evaporation in the field before coagulation, weighed samples were taken on several dull and bright days, and weighed hourly after full exposure to light and air. The average loss in 3 hours was only 1.23 per cent. on dull days, and 2.01 per cent. on bright days, which would allow a maximum error of 0.7 per cent. As all latex was treated in the same way, as soon as possible after tapping, the individual error is almost negligible.

Manures Employed,

The following mixtures have been employed in the experiments, the manures being applied in a trench dug between the rows :--

General Manure.

Plot 83 A and B: 42 Trees.

Supplying N 50 lb., P2O3 30 lb., Potash 30 lb.

lb		1	Per Acı lb,	re.
84 84 57 31 26	•••	Groundnut cake Blood meal Steamed bone meal Sulphate of potash Sulphate of ammonia.	200 200 136 75 60	Containing— Nitrogen, 50 lb. Phosphoric Acid, 30 lb. Potash, 30 lb.
282			671	

Or 6.71 lb. per tree, 42 trees $\times 6.71$ lb. = 282 lb. manure.

Excess of Nitrogen.

Plot 83 D, 84 A; 46 Trees. Supplying 80 lb. Nitrogen. Per Acre

ib.				
			lb.	
84 19	٠.	Groundnut cake	182	Containing-
138	• •	Steamed bone meal	43	Nitrogen, 80 lb.
69	٠.	Blood meal	300	Phosphoric Acid, 9.5 lb.
-00	• •	Sulphate of ammonia.	150	•
310				
_			675	

Or 6.75 lb. per tree. 46 trees \times 6.75 lb. = 310 lb. per plot.

Excess of Phosphoric Acid.

Plot 84 C and D; 46 Trees.

Supplying 80 lb. Phosphorie Acid.

~	. r.a.	F			
lb.			1	Per Acı lb.	re.
20 78 78	··	Groundnut cake Steamed bone dust Basic slag		50 200 200	Containing— Nitrogen, 9 · 5 lb. Phosphoric Acid, 80 lb.
176				450	

Or 4.5 lb. per tree containing 0.8 lb. phosphoric acid. 39 trees \times 4.5 lb. = 176 lb. per plot.

Excess of Potash

Plot 85 D and 86 A; 48 Trees.

Per Acre.

lb.			lo.	
65 96	::	Groundnut cake Sulphate of potash	 136 200	Containing— Nitrogen, 9 5 lb.
161			336	K,0 80 lb.

Or 3.36 lb. per tree containing 0.8 lb. potash, 48 trees × 3.36 lb. = 161 lb. per plot.

Mineral Mixture.

Plot 86 B and C; 47 Trees.

Per Acre.

10.			10.	
131	 Nitrolim	٠.	278	Containing-
83	 Basic slag	٠.	176	Nitrogen, 50 lb.
35	 Sulphate of potash	٠.	75	P,O, 30 lb.
	•			K.O 30 lb.
249			529	

Or 5 \cdot 29 lb, per tree, 47 trees \times 5 \cdot 29 lb, = 249 lb, per plot.

April 30, 1918.

M. KELWAY BAMBER.